

DTTP Areas of Support

Introduction

The Distributive Training Technology Project (DTTP) is a state-of-the-art communications and learning-delivery system designed to support the National Guard's traditional and expanding operations at home and abroad. There are more than 330 specially designed multimedia classrooms throughout the country, supporting such varied activities as military training; terrorism-preparedness training; first-responder instruction; language-sustainment training; emergency operations support; communications support; and scientific-education programming aimed at school-age children.

Following a trend that began after 9/11, the DTTP classrooms are being used increasingly to support the Global War on Terrorism by providing Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (C⁴) resources. These resources are used variously to train soldiers preparing for deployment; train and orient NGB Civil Support Teams and others engaged in Homeland Security efforts; support communications among first responders responding to natural disasters; enable deploying troops to conduct personal and administrative business; and permit troops deployed to various parts of the world, such as Afghanistan and Iraq, to meet virtually face-to-face with their friends and loved ones back home. The following sections provide additional details on each of these support areas.

Readiness and Deployment Preparation

DTTP resources support deploying soldiers in a number of ways. DL resources enable mobilizing troops to train virtually, eliminating the need for travel early in the deployment process. Once they reach their mobilization station, troops can leverage onsite DL resources for additional training. In Fiscal Year 2006 alone, the National Guard avoided an estimated \$83 million in travel-related costs by leveraging DTTP's distributed learning capabilities rather than incur the costs of travel to distant training facilities. Many of these facilities – the DTTP classroom at Camp Atterbury, IN, for example – also function as cyber cafes in the off hours, enabling soldiers to perform personal/administrative duties, continue online training, conduct personal research on the Internet, and communicate with their families.

In addition, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army – Manpower & Reserve Affairs (OASA-M&RA) leveraged DTTP classrooms in assessing the military's foreign language capabilities. As part of OASA-M&RA's Defense Language Proficiency Testing Five (DLPT5), Joint IT Programs Division of NGB J6 helped define the technical and implementation strategy, and assessed classroom compatibility with the proposed DLPT5 content by supporting a successful pilot.

Homeland Defense and Homeland Security

NGB-J3, Domestic Operations, used DTTP resources to support rollout of a number of its Civil Support Teams (CSTs) and also to provide specialized training, such as the Hazardous Air Pollutant On Site (HAPSITE) Training Program, which is aimed at CST medical officers and staffs.

NGB DL assets in Alaska were used to support Northern Edge/Alaskan Shield, a major exercise involving military forces from Northern Command, the Alaskan Command, the National Guard, the FBI, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and local communities. The Ft. Richardson classroom played a critical role as a network operation center during the exercise. Participants used VTC capabilities and workstations to conduct research and develop plans for response.

DTTP assets in Michigan served double-duty in ensuring the safety of players and fans at two major sporting events. In February 2006, the classrooms in Lansing and Taylor, MI, supported security operations for SuperBowl XL in Detroit. In October 2006, the Taylor classroom again served as an Emergency Operations Center – this time for the 2006 World Series. DTTP serves as the common link among Homeland Security, the National Guard, and other governmental entities that may be called upon to assist with these types of operations.

Also, in January 2007, Michigan DTTP resources provided substantial round-the-clock support for President Gerald R. Ford's funeral services, which took place in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The DL Manager deployed

portable VTC equipment to the forward Emergency Operations Center, and the DTTP classroom in Wyoming, Michigan served as the rear operations center/communication hub for this event.

In the Wake of Hurricanes and Other Storms

On 31 August 2005, LTG H Steven Blum leveraged DTTP resources to conduct a video-teleconference with 56 sites throughout the country to discuss relief efforts related to Hurricane Katrina, which devastated portions of the Gulf Coast. DTTP classrooms across the nation subsequently joined in support of various rescue, relief, and recovery efforts following Katrina and the storms that followed.

Classrooms in Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, and North Carolina served at various points as Emergency Operations Centers to support the communications needs of the Adjutants General, other military leaders, congressional aids, and representatives from FEMA, Social Security, and legal services.

In Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Texas, DTTP assets were used to reunite family members and facilitate interstate communications among evacuees and National Guard responders alike. The Michigan DL Center alone helped reunite 79 families separated in the initial confusion following the flooding in New Orleans.

Several states including Colorado, Missouri, Texas, and West Virginia, deployed their Interim SATCOM Incident Site Communications Sets (ISISCSs) to support rescue and relief efforts in those states most affected by the storm. Texas and West Virginia linked their ISISCS units to DTTP resources to better support situational-awareness activities.

During the torrential rains and flooding in June and July 2006, Pennsylvania ARNG DTTP personnel assisted the Emergency Operations Center by maintaining an open audio bridge for 72 hours, facilitating Command and Control (C2) communication between the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the state TAG. New York National Guard personnel used the Latham DTTP classroom as the Joint Operations Center for C2 activities as well. The Valhalla-based 53rd Troop Command assigned to the task connected via VTC to the DTTP classroom at Latham and coordinated with personnel from the 204th Engineering Battalion in Binghamton.

In February 2007, during the snow emergency in upstate New York, the Latham DTTP classroom was used around the clock by the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO), because the SEMO operations center in Albany was too small to accommodate the necessary personnel, who were coordinating emergency responders throughout the state.

Family Support – Morale, Welfare, and Recreation

DTTP's support for mobilizing troops did not end upon their deployment. State DL personnel across the country conducted frequent video-teleconferences linking faraway soldiers with their families and loved ones back home. During the past two holiday seasons, for example, with tens of thousands of U.S. Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, Guardsmen and Reservists virtually a world away, DTTP resources helped narrow the distance between them and their families back home. DTTP's video teleconferencing resources connected hundreds of Guardsmen with their family and friends nationwide. These live, real-time exchanges, which were conducted in DTTP classrooms across the country, enabled the service members and their families to spend quality time together at a particularly emotional time of year. Many soldiers were even able to watch as their children opened gifts.

On 14 February 2007, Valentine's Day, DL personnel in Minnesota utilized DTTP assets to facilitate a wedding ceremony between a Minnesota Guardsman stationed in Iraq and his fiancé at the Inver Grove Heights armory. About 40 friends and family gathered around a big screen to witness the couple exchange their vows via video teleconference.

These activities – and others like it – demonstrate NGB-J6 DTTP as a vital NGB training, C4, and family-support resource.